(ii) Personnel belonging to the All India Services.

(iii) Personnel belonging to the Armed Forces.

(iv) Personnel of the Union Territories.

(v) Officers and employees of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

(vi) Officers and employees of the regulatory bodies set up under Acts of Parliament.

(vii) Officers and employees of the Supreme Court of India.

(B) To transform the Central Government Organisations into modern, professional and citizen-friendly entities that are dedicated to the service of the people.

(C) To work out a comprehensive pay package for the categories of Central Government employees mentioned at (A) above that is suitably linked to promoting efficiency, productivity and economy through rationalization of structure, organisations, systems and processes within the Government with a view to leveraging economy, accountability, responsibility, transparency, assimilation of technology and discipline.

(D) To harmonize the functioning of the Central Government Organisations with the demands of the emerging global economic scenario. This would also take in account, among other relevant factors, the totality of benefits available to the employees, need of rationalization and simplification thereof, the prevailing pay structure and retirement benefits available under the Central Public Sector Undertakings, the economic conditions in the country, the need to observe fiscal prudence in the management of the economy, the resources of the Central Government and the demands thereon on account of economic and social development, defence, national security and the global economic scenario, and the impact upon the finances of the States if the recommendations are adopted by the States.

(E) To examine the principles which should govern the structure of pension, death-cum-retirement gratuity, family-pension and other terminal or recurring benefits having financial implications to the present and former Central Government employees appointed before January 1, 2004.

(F) To make recommendations with respect to the general principles financial parameters and conditions which should govern payment of bonus and the desirability and feasibility of introducing Productivity Linked incentives Schemes in place of the existing *ad hoc* bonus scheme in various Departments and to recommend specific formulae for determining the productivity index and other related parameters.

(G) To examine desirability and the need to sanction any interim relief till the time the recommendations of the Commission are made and accepted by the Government.

Stake sale in Neyvelli Lignite Corporation

48. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has put on hold the stake sale in all PSUs after protest in stake sale in the case of Neyvelli Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the decision to restart disinvestments is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In July, 2006, the Prime Minister decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review. This decision was taken in the context of representations from some concerns expressed about the process of disinvestment in some Public Sector Enterprises.

(c) The aforementioned review is yet to be completed. At present, it is not possible to indicate any time-frame for completion of the said review. However, the three power companies, *viz.* Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) and National Hydo-electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), proposed to make Initial Public Offer (IPO) of equity equal to 10% each of their pre-issue paid up equity capital. Government decided in February, 2007 to piggy back with an 'Offer for Sale' of 10%, 5% and 5% respectively out of its shareholding. PGCIL issue was completed in October 2007. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of REC opened for subscription on 19th February, 2008 with closing date of 22nd February, 2008. Government has also decided to disinvest, a small portion of equity, out of its shareholding, in Oil India Ltd. and RITES Ltd. along with the fresh issue of equity capital.

Growth rate of GDP

49. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of India recorded during the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and till December 2007-08, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact the GDP growth rate of some States in the country is very low in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the details of such States which are not able to come up to expected All-India growth rate of 9-10 per cent GDP;

(d) whether Government is also aware that the GDP rate has reportedly declined in first quarter of the financial year 2007-08 in comparison to year 2006-07; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Factor Cost at constant (1999-2000) prices is given below:

Year	Percentage Change over previous year
2005-06	9.4
2006-07	9.6
2007-08	8.7

SOURCE: Central Statistical Organisation

(b) and (c) The estimate of Gross State Domestic Product are given in the Statement (*See* below).